

inflight service. He commented that "The crew was efficient and arrangements were in keeping with Air India's Moscot—The Maharaja".

Funds for revitalisation of AI and IA

3124. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (b) whether Government have proposal to revitalise Air India and Indian Airlines;
- (c) whether fleet augmentation and product upgradation would be given priority under the revitalisation process;
- (d) if so, the fund earmarked for implementing the above programme; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has already decided to partially disinvest its stake in both the Airlines. The disinvestment of AI and IA is expected to result in improved air services, efficiency and financial performance as also higher financial returns to Government. It is premature to say about funds induction at this stage'.

Former CMD's recommendation on replacement of old Aircrafts in IA

3125. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the former CMD of the Indian Airlines Mr. Anil Baijal had recommended for immediate replacement of old aircrafts in the Indian Airlines; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The former Chairman and Managing Director

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of Indian Airlines had recommended that the modernisation of Indian Airlines Jet fleet should be accorded a higher priority.

A Techno Economic evaluation study, to replace the ageing fleet of B-737 and A-300 aircraft and also to augment fleet capacity of Indian Airlines, is currently underway.

New Airports in Bihar

† 3126. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a.) whether Government have any proposal to construct the new airports in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof: and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No new focal point of traffic has emerged with sufficient viability, and no airline operator has requested for starting services from any place which does not have airport.

Loss making small Airports

3127. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 16th July, Calcutta edition of Times of India with the caption "Privatisation fear to hit AAI staff, warn panel";
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to lease out Airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai; and
- (c) if so, who will bear the running of loss making small Airports?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.